

**SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR ESTABLISHING AND ADMINISTERING
SESSIONS IN DIGITAL CABLE SYSTEMS**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 Systems and methods facilitate the provisioning of a new service in a cable
system without requiring that server hardware and/or software be changed to implement
the service, or that an equivalent session manager be created in a set-top box. Session
requests are generated at the STB and transmitted to the service, which then interprets the
request, rather than forwarded from the STB to a server implementing the service, as in
10 conventional systems. To effect the routing to the service the session request contains
routing information. Servers facilitating the implementation of services do not know
details about, or even the existence of, new services added to the system.

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